THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Setting up of Planetarium in Chandigarh

2280. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chandigarh Administration has requested for the setting up of a Children's hospital at Chandigarh; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Setting up of a Planetarium in Chandigarh

2281. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision was taken to set up a planetarium at Chandigarh;

(b) if so, what is the progress made in the matter; and

(c) what are the places in the country where planetaria are planned to be set up during the current Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present the Government has no such plan.

Laying of new Railway lines from Karandul to Kovvur

2282. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for laying a new Railway line from Karandul (Madhya Pradesh) to Kovvur (Andhra Pradesh) is pending with Government for sanction;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for delay in clearing the project; and

(c) whether Government are aware that this project would greatly help in the transportation of Iron ore to Vishakhapatnam Port?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) At present there is no such proposal pending for sanction. Survey for the railway line in question had been conducted in 1964—66. In the meantime, construction of the Kottavalasa-Kirandul line was sanctioned for transport of Bailadilla iron ore for export to Japan via Visakhapatnam Port, With this, it was not found justified to open up a new route for the same iron ore, *via Kovvur*.

Declaration of National Highway in Andhra Pradesh

2283. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to declare (i) Vijayawada to Machalipatnam, (ii) Nayudupet, Tirupati and Chittor; and (iii) Hyderabad to Chandrapur (Maharashtra) as National Highways;

(b) whether these projects are proposed to be taken up in view of the existing length of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh being only 2352 kilometres which is low as compared to National average: **and**